AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

" *O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint*
" *Agricolas.*" . . . . . VIRG.

VOL. III. BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1821. NUM. 3.

AGRICULTURE.

FROM THE NATIONAL RECORDER.

Remarks on the late Cattle Procession in Philadelphia, with Directions how to effectually promote the Breed of Cattle. By James Meuse, M. D. Vice President of the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture.

Read before the Society on the 20th March, 1821, and ordered to be published in the National Recorder.

Now that the recent " Splendid Show" of fat cattle has passed,* it may be well to reflect upon the exhibition; to examine the justness of the claims it had to the imposing title of its alleged object, and utility; to ask ourselves, whether that object and that end will be in the least promoted by such a procedure first and last, as we have witnessed; and whether there are not other measures more calculated to attain both, and at a much cheaper rate, than those which have been adopted.

The exhibition was entitled " *Pennsylvania against the World:*" 65 oxen, 4 hogs, 19 sheep, ten kids, 3 deer, 4 bears, had been kept for different periods at an extra allowance of pasture and short feed, for the purpose of seeing how much flesh and fat could be put on their bodies, and how much fat be made to cover their intestines. The object as alleged, is the " improving the breed of cattle" Let us reflect a moment, and ask how such an end can be obtained by the measures pursued.

It is apprehended, that it will not be difficult to prove, that the desirable objects contemplated will not be effected; that the zeal and spirit of the concerned have been most egregiously misapplied; that the exhibition was calculated to keep up a bad fashion and ruinous practice among graziers, and that a more rational plan must be adopted before the desirable end of the " improvement of the breed of cattle," can be effected.

The same principles which are so well established with regard to the human race, apply with full force to the brute creation. How then, it may be asked, is the form of mankind improved? Is it by long continued overfeeding them, when in the decline of life, to clothe their bodies and line their interiors with loads of fat? What would be thought of a people who avowed that such means were the best to mend the shapes of a badly formed community? And yet the fashionable practice among graziers with their cattle is not less absurd. Excluding the bears, deer and kids from consideration, let us confine our remarks to cattle, sheep and hogs. A number of large framed oxen with capacious bodies, some of them eight or nine years old, are selected, and after the fullest allowance of the finest pasture, either hired or given to them to the exclusion of the rest of the stock on the farm, are put up in the winter, and fed at regular hours with as much Indian corn meal, ground oats, potatoes, pumpkins and hay, as they can possibly digest, and until they groan from the oppression they suffer, and their hides carded and rubbed with as much attention as is bestowed upon a southern race horse. Sometimes corn meal and the other articles are given to the animal while at pasture From one to even four years of such treatment are required to bring the animal to the " sticking point." Sheep of the New Leicester or Bakewell breed are also selected, for similar experiments. This breed, from its admirable form, is known to take on fat with great ease, and individuals of it, with good pasture, will always in one season become as fat as any reasonable man ought to desire; but by the treatment mentioned they are so overloaded with fat as scarcely to be eatable. The same remark is applicable to hogs, some of which, upon the late occasion, were absolutely blind from the projection of fat over their eyes, and required to be raised from their beds of straw to take food. None of them could walk without difficulty. Let us ask how these operations will improve the breed of cattle? Did any of these crammed beasts leave their progeny behind them? The absurdity of naming the object to be effected by this excessive feeding, " the improvement of the breed of cattle," is evident. Where, moreover, is the utility of such overfeeding? If it be said that it furnishes a market for grain and hay, why not apply the extra feed consumed by the show cattle, sheep and hogs, to the fattening thrice the number of head, all of which by it would have been turned off in as excellent order as is required for human stomachs of ordinary powers of digestion. The difficulty is to find lean enough in the cattle and sheep to eat: as to the hogs, nineteen-twentieths of their weight will be consigned to the manufacturers of soap.*

Any animal however badly shaped, can be made inordinately fat, sooner or later, by extra quantities of nourishing food; but this is not the way to improve the farm stock of a country. Plain reason and sound sense dictate that what we require, is a breed that will soonest furnish the greatest quantity of good meat or milk at the least expense. It is only in this way, that the advances of the grazier will be returned to him, and it is the quick return and circulation of capital that enriches a nation. The money expended and even lost by feeding heavy show beef cattle, impoverish more or less a country, by diminishing the means which the feeders would have had without such expenditure, of bringing to market a greater number of cattle in future.

Two methods, and two only, exist by which farm stock can be improved. The first is by breeding from those native individuals of a kind, possessing the forms known to take on most easily flesh and fat, and by occasionally crossing their progeny with others having points in which those resulting from former experiments, may be deficient. If milk be the object, subjects should be selected which yield great quantities of it, and of a good quality, and retain it longest; and crosses may be made with those males within our reach having the best forms and least offal. Materials for such experiments are by no means deficient among us, but unfortunately the spirit for slow improvement does not sufficiently prevail among our intelligent cultivators. In this way a man may in a few years obtain a breed, from which he may live to derive great profit. It is by such methods, that the breeds of England and some parts of the continent of Europe, have been brought to the great perfection which they at present exhibit.

A second and much more expeditious method of improving the breed of cattle, is by importing such stock from Europe as possess the points to which we wish to direct our attention

The diffusion of the Merino and New Leicester breed of sheep, sets us at ease respecting those inestimable animals. It is to the increase of beef and milk, that the spirited improver should chiefly attend: and fortunately a breed combining both objects is easily attainable, by the importation of the " *improved short horned-cattle*" from England; a race which, owing to the persevering industry and intelligence of the breeders in the north of England, has reached to as much perfection as can be conceived or desired. Some of this valuable stock are already in the United States. Mr. Williams of Northborough, Massachusetts, has a noble specimen of it, and several of his decendants are in the vicinity of Philadelphia, in the possession of a gentleman animated with the true spirit of improvement, and who formed his judgment on this subject from an attentive examination of the best specimens of the stock in England, and comparing them with other breeds. Two arrived in Philadelphia about three years since, on their way to Kentucky, where they brought one thousand dollars a piece at public auction. A son of the famous Comet, which sold for one thousand guineas, at the sale of Mr. Colling's cattle, in England, is at New Brunswick, New Jersey: but if every county in every state had a pair of them, the nation could not be soon overstocked. An inspection of the animals alluded to, would convince any one acquainted with the good points of stock, how far the short-horned breed is superior to all others hitherto introduced into the United States, in the great objects of size and form. But as it is in the power of few to enjoy such gratifying sights, some particulars shall be given to show the grounds upon which our praises are bestowed. Mr. Charles Champion, of Blyth, near Bawtry, Nottinghamshire, England, writes to me as follows: " You mention the weights of several oxen which have been slaughtered in America, but as you have not stated their ages, suppose they must have been six or seven years old:* their weights were certainly great, but in England we do not consider those overgrown animals the most profitable: our lands are generally so highly rented, and the poor rates and taxes so exceedingly burdensome to the farmers, as to call forth their best exertions, and it becomes his interest to select that breed of cattle which will make the quickest and most profitable return for the food they consume: for these objects, no breed is so eminently distinguished as the *improved short-horns*: their early maturity being a fact now so well established, that they are spreading in every direction, both in England and Ireland. It has been my practice for some years to feed my steers, and sell them to the butcher from two up to three years old, when they generally average 70 stone of 14 lbs. (980 lbs.) with 10 stones (140 lbs.) of loose tallow. I sold a steer by Blyth Comet in May, 1817, at Blyth fair, for £36, weighing 72 stones (1008 lbs.) and he was only 22 months old. At my sale the other day (January 28, 1820,) I sold a steer to Mr. Arnsby, which is now two years and ten months old, and would weigh if killed, 105 stones, (1470 lbs.) This steer is by Blyth Comet. In November, 1812, my turnips having failed, I sold ten young steers, all of my own breeding, to my brother, who fed them in an open yard, without a shed to go under, upon Sweedish turnips and straw, without any other food, except a small quantity of clover hay, once a day, for about a month before he sold them. The price I obtained for the steers in November, was £17 each, being at the time a full market price, and my brother sold them for £39 10s each, leaving £22 10s. each for five months keeping."

Mr. Champion has presented to the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, a finely engraved

* The cattle were exhibited in stalls in the upper part of the city from the 8th to the 12th March. They were then killed, and their quarters carried about the city in formal procession in carts on the 15th.

* Other bad effects of such public processions are the loss of work among every class of mechanics, the interruption to the education of the poor, and the temptation to useless expense for strong drink which they excite, at a time, too, when the means of employment are so greatly circumscribed as at present. When this paper was read, many facts in proof were given by different members.

* Mr. Champion was right in his conjecture.

portrait of a steer raised by him, from a painting he had taken a few days before it left Blyth for London: this print is hung up in the room of the society, and cannot fail to draw forth expressions of admiration from every judge of cattle. The weight of the four quarters, as set down on the corner of the print, was 178 stones, which at 8 lbs. to the London stone, make 1424 lbs. The tallow weighed 199 lbs. A bull three years and two months old, of the same breed (the short-horned) but from a different stock, weighed alive 160 stones (2240 lbs.;) and his four quarters were laid at 1540 lbs.: Six steers, three years and six months old, weighed, the four quarters, 94 stones each (1316 lbs.) Their tallow weighed from nine to ten stone each, (126—140 lbs.) These cattle belonged to Mr. John Nicholson of Gipton, near Leeds, Yorkshire. What weights would such stock reach, had they the advantage of Indian corn?*

When the intelligent American grazier calculates the difference between the profit of feeding an animal, which, say at three years old, will reach these weights of flesh and fat, and reflects on the loss commonly sustained by feeding another, six or eight years old, for a much longer period, in order to make him equal in weight, he cannot for a moment hesitate to make up his mind on the superior advantage to be derived from the short-horned breed †

The importation of a pair of them is therefore urgently suggested to the spirited American grazier The expense will soon be repaid: for the reputation of the breed which will precede their arrival, and much more, the sight of the animal, will create an anxiety in our farmers, who are quick in discerning sources of profitable investment, to possess themselves of it. The great prices given for merino sheep during the late war with England, and for the mere use of a new Leicester tup, before that event, and while the full blood was confined to one man, afforded ample proof that farmers do not hesitate to risk high prices for stock, when a reasonable probability exists of obtaining quickly an interest for capital advanced;‡ and when we reflect that the amount of the losses sustained by those concerned in preparing the objects for the late show, and of two former similar exhibitions, would be much more than sufficient to secure to Pennsylvania a pair of the breed of cattle in question, it is to be regretted that so much money should have been thrown away, without producing any permanent benefit to the country. Our farmers reflecting, that by crossing the best of their own stock, or the best they could procure, with the foreign breed, they secured a portion of a distinctive, strongly marked race, the characters and valuable properties of which would certainly increase as they advanced in the blood, would be led to make the experiment, and the gratification derived from the thriving disposition and beauty of form, exhibited in the progeny shortly after their appearance on their farms, would stimulate them to its repetition; and when, after a few years they found that the new breed furnished more and richer beef, at a much earlier age, and with less feed than is commonly required for native stock, and richer milk, and better working oxen than any they before had, their minds will be made up as to the exclusion of all other breeds of horned cattle from their farms. But this is not all; their stock will be viewed by their less enterprising and more cautious neighbours: motives of interest and self satisfaction derived from the treasure in possession, will excite the owner to diffuse a knowledge of its value, which will be every year more and more enhanced, and the demand for it be enlarged, from the increasing numbers annually engaging in the agricultural life. Hence a source of revenue will be secured to himself and family

The peculiar marks which designate this breed from all others, are, capacious barrel shaped bodies, straight backs, broad loins, small neck and head, short horns, full chines, leaving no hollows behind the shoulders, clean chaps, bright and prominent eyes, deep chests projecting well before the legs: *forelegs clean, straight, and standing wide:* not knock-kneed (or in-kneed,) wide hips and round; rump lying in a horizontal direction, not sinking backwards: the tail set on so high as to take in the same line with the back, and lastly small bones. A portrait of a bull of this breed, may be seen in the "Archives of Useful knowledge, vol. i. p. 358," and plates of several more, and of cows of the same breed, in "*Tuke's Survey of Yorkshire*"

There is another breed of cattle, the Scotch, or Kyloes, well deserving the attention of the American improver, on account of their extreme hardy constitution, and tendency to early fatting on grass alone, and of their filling up a vacancy in the supply of good beef about August and September, a time, when the heavy cattle of the preceding season have all been killed off, and the stock of the season have not come in. Repeated experiments with the Kyloes in England, have shown that in one summer, at four years old, they will reach from 500 to 700 lbs. weight, with from 70 to 90 lbs. loose fat.

The great misfortune has hitherto been in the United States, as respects cattle that, although within the last 30 years, they have greatly improved in form, owing to judicious crosses between native stock, and occasionally with foreign breeds that were introduced, yet no blood has been kept so pure, as to enable any one to say he possessed a race with characters so strongly marked, as would insure their transmission to his or her decendants. Our whole procedure in this business, has been a system of chance, and this want of certainty in our crosses has been one reason why so few have hesitated to accept of a high price for a thriving calf, which had it been raised, might have proved the origin of a valuable breed. It is full time to begin to conduct our operations upon fixed principles, and no time could be more propitious than the present, when a spirit for improvement, which the friends to agriculture have been striving for many years to excite, is diffused through the United States, and when foreign commerce has ceased to offer those allurements, which so powerfully attracted our citizens, and drew off their attention from internal objects.

* The value set upon the "*improved short horned breed of cattle,*" may be judged of from the prices they bring at auction. At a sale of the stock of Robert Collings of Bamton, Co. Durham, Sept. 1818, 61 lots of cattle and sheep brought 9426*l.* 4*s.* sterling —the cattle sold for 7852*l.* 19*s.* In 1819 at the sale of Charles Collings, sale at Kelton, 45 Bulls, Cows and Heifers sold for 13485 sterling. See Archives of useful knowledge vol. 2, p 65. At Mr. Champion's sale at Blyth, Jan 1820, twenty head averaged 38 guineas and 3-5ths each. See the "American Farmer No. 23, vol. 2d. for the particulars of this sale

† There can be no difficulty in procuring a pair of these inestimable cattle. A letter directed to Mr. Champion would soon reach him, and on being satisfied as to the lodgment of funds in London, would doubtless make all the necessary arrangements for the safety and sustenance of the stock. A man must accompany the animals to take care of them on shipboard. Twelve hundred dollars would cover all expenses for a pair, insurance included

‡ From $100 to $500 were given for a merino tup; and $150, and $300, were paid by several for the use of a new Leicester tup, to captain Farmer, of New Brunswick New Jersey, for one season.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Indian Corn, Pumpkins, &c

Silver Lake, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, March 6th, 1821.

J. S. SKINNER, Esq.

Sir,—I received some time ago, your letter of the 26th December, and beg you to excuse me for not answering it sooner. On receiving it, I requested a gentleman in Philadelphia, to whom I had sent some of the corn, to transmit a part of it to you.

Last Spring I appropriated a small field near my house, containing not quite five acres, to experimental crops. The preceding year it had been broken up (being new land) the first time with the plough, and planted with potatoes. The soil is a loam, somewhat inclining to sand, nearly two feet deep.

When ploughed, it was manured with rotten dung, which the negligence of my farmer had suffered to remain at a barn in its vicinity, till much of the fertilizing power was lost. The ground being in fine order, I sowed it with a variety of crops on trial. English oats, (the heavy kind) mangle wurtzel, ruta baga, pumpkins, and corn, had each a share of it. When the oats were coming into head, a very heavy gust of wind and rain laid them perfectly flat on the ground, and I gave them up as lost.—— They, however, partly recovered, and when threshed, produced upwards of fifty bushels per acre. The mangle wurtzel did not yield a good crop. I believe I had not the proper kind of seed. The produce was less than eight tons per acre. The ruta baga turned out tolerably well; but its produce was not ascertained. A part of it was fed to the cattle last autumn, and the rest suffered to remain through the winter in the field, in the expectation, from its character for hardihood, that it would be fit for the sheep in the spring: but in this I was disappointed—it is entirely rotten; not a sound root left. Two years ago, some common turnips were suffered to remain in the ground all winter, and were perfectly sound and good in the spring. That winter was mild, and the ground was completely covered with snow—the last winter was very severe, and during part of it, the ground was bare of snow, and the ruta baga alternately frozen and thawed.

The corn, and the ground on which it grew, were accurately measured. There was not quite an acre in the piece. The produce as measured, was at the rate of one hundred and thirty-six bushels per acre. It was planted on the third of June, and harvested on the sixteenth of September. It is a white corn, the ears small, and containing eight rows. The stalk does not grow above five or six feet in height. It has lately been introduced into this vicinity from the north. I had heard it mentioned as being a very early kind; but not as being uncommonly productive. My neighbours supposed it to be a fortnight earlier than the small yellow corn. I had it planted in rows, three feet apart, the stalks nine inches asunder in the rows. A person accustomed to the tall southern corn, on seeing a field of this kind growing, would form an unfavourable opinion of it, until he examined the number of ears in a given space. The ground was manured with the rotten dung above mentioned, in the rows. It was once ploughed, and once hand-hoed. Just before the usual time of *topping*, as the rows of corn were very close together, I had every other row cut off close above the upper ears, supposing that the fecundating dust of the remaining tassels would be sufficient for the ears on the whole field—but the examination, which should have been made, to ascertain whether there was any difference of produce, between the rows topped, and those untopped, was neglected when the corn was harvested. It should be observed, that the ears were in silk when the tops of the plants were cut off. As the rows were planted east and west, and close together, cutting the tops of the alternate rows had the effect of let-

ting the sun more perfectly to the ears, while the thickness of the vegetation below, shaded the roots, and kept the ground moist. This kind of corn requires a rich soil. The fodder produced, is, probably, less abundant than that of the tall corn; but the stalks are said to be more saccharine and nutritious. In the 25th No. of your 1st volume, there is a statement of a large produce of pumpkins, estimated at 50,000 weight per acre. Mr. Rafinesque thinks that they may frequently yield that amount. I have tried the large kind, but did not find them ripen well. The largest of them weighed 127 pounds, which is much less than some mentioned in the paper to which I have alluded. The common kind, although much smaller (averaging from twelve to fifteen pounds) produced a greater weight from the same ground, and yielded, (the ground being carefully measured, and a sufficient number of cart loads of the pumpkins weighed to ascertain the medium weight) twenty-seven tons and an half per acre; or 55,000 weight gross; equal to 61,000 pounds. They were planted singly, in hills, six feet by three apart; manured like the corn, and ploughed and hoed once. When the frost killed the leaves, the pumpkins were seen so completely to cover the ground, that my neighbours observed they looked as if they had been carted from other parts of the field, and tilted upon the place where they had grown.

I believe few crops will better repay the attention of the farmer than pumpkins. All kinds of stock are very fond of them. Indian corn and pumpkins would bear very conspicuous stations in the rotation of crops in English husbandry, if the climate of Great Britain would enable the English farmer to raise them.

I am, sir,
Your very obedient serv't
ROBERT H. ROSE.

For the American Farmer.

HOGS.

Some remarks on the treatment of them and other

LIVE STOCK.

JOHN S. SKINNER, Esq.

A correspondent in the last number of the Farmer requests some information and a remedy for a disorder he describes in hogs, attended with sore eys, eruptions on the skin, shrivelled hairs, &c. I beg leave to offer him and others, a conjecture as to the cause of the disease; having never had any experience respecting it, though I have noticed the sore eyes occasionally, in these animals above forty years ago.

From the statement of the wet seasons and cold weather, it may be reasonably inferred, that the cause of the disorder among these creatures, is the same that occasions so many maladies among their betters of mankind. It is probably exposure to cold and wet, which produces so frequently, similar diseases among ourselves, when poverty or accident exposes us ill clad, and unsheltered. There seems to be a pretty general opinion that all animals, men, or cattle, if they are accustomed to suffer the changes of weather, they are not hurt by them; and therefore they are too commonly left without pity to endure them. But though habit does much, in this case, especially when joined with vigorous exercise, it is not enough. While our feelings loudly teach us, and our reason fully assents to the necessity of shelter, cover and bedding for ourselves, let us not be deaf or blind to what they teach us in others. Some of these stand pretty high in our interests, and shall any be below our sympathy? Listen to the complaints of every animal that is used to express them by sounds. When wet and cold, the dog whines, the cat mews piteously, and every humane person opens a door for them somewhere. If we do not hear the horse and cow, we see them shiver, sometimes almost to our hearing. Their suffering is plain, and the one most a favourite is not only housed, but often, injudiciously clothed. The hog appeals to all our senses; he shivers, his thin hairs are clotted and dripping, he utters loudly his complaints! But he is not a favourite! he is rude and dirty; neither amuses nor renders any daily services: he is destined to slaughter, and suffers unpitied any natural evils that befal, all the few days allotted to him by the will of his master. Yet interest has forced most of those, who are wise enough to see it, to provide some cover, some rough bedding, to preserve and render more profitable, these condemned creatures. And this is the remedy I would propose to your correspondent; not to be confined to those only he pens up; but to be extended to any turned loose, by erecting a little shed in the edge of his wood, under a hill, siding to the south, or where most convenient for the running herd, who have instinctive sense enough to rather there at night, and in cold weather, if some leaves or litter are thrown under it.

Allow me to mention some strange mistakes, which have often struck me, even in the last measure of life and management with this animal. I have seen a number in a small pen raised from the ground, with a shed at one end and carefully floored with split poles to allow the dirt to pass through. But there was no litter in any part, and the round sides of the poles being uppermost, the creatures could not move without continually slipping, nor stand without difficulty; so that they were afraid to go to the trough, and lived so uneasily that they never got fat with all the corn given them. In other instances they have been shut up in so small a space, that having as usual rooted some holes in the ground floor, the rains filled them with water as cold as the season, and converted the little area of the pen, into one deep and filthy quagmire, through which they had to wade to their feed, and return to their lying place, clogged with the wet clay and nastiness; to creep together and add what heat they had in their bodies to the striking moisture which rose in streams between them, enough to corrode the eyes and fill the skin with ulcers from head to tail.

Unless a man exercises his reason better, he would do well to trust to that of the hog, who will keep himself dry and warm, if not deprived of the liberty to do so, and fatten faster than in the pens of such masters.

J. M.

BALTIMORE, April 2, 1821.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

BRIEF REMARKS ON SEVERAL BREEDS OF NEAT CATTLE.

April 4, 1821

Dear Sir,

I am glad that Wilkinson has confirmed your impressions on the excellence of Teeswater Cattle, and as the evidence, not only of those persons who write, but of those who have bought, and used them, is so decidedly in their favor, I am anxious that you should not confound, the fine animal named Teeswater, with the ill shaped beast called Holderness.

All the varieties of short Horn Cattle, were derived from the Continent. They were taken first from Holland to the fertile meadows of Holstein in Saxony, thence to Holderness in Yorkshire, where they had been for more than a century distinguished, by flat ribs—warse bone—thick hides, and copious supplies of *thin* milk, when Mr. Collings and other spirited Breeders upon the banks of the Tees, selected the best individuals, crossed them with Norman, and Lincoln Bulls, after bred in and in until the rich milk of the Norman, and the straight long backs of the Lincoln were obtained, whilst the larger hind quarters, and capacious udders of the Holderness were established.

Teeswater Cattle combine all that can be desired, in form, properties, or disposition: their early arrival at maturity—their great weight in *the valuable parts*—the quantity, and singular *quality* of their milk—the thinness of their necks—the smallness of their heads, horns, tails and other offal, the docility of their temper, and quickness of their proof, give them a decided advantage throughout Great Britain, over every race of either short, or long horn stock. Notwithstanding the rage of fashion in one district, or the passion of a celebrated Agriculturist for pany Devons, and ill shaped, restive Alderneys, Collings has obtained the highest prices at *every* sale.

Devons are best fitted by their Deer-like form to decorate a Park or by their nimble gait to draw the plough; Alderneys are adapted to fill the cream pots of the rich; but for the uses of the calculating Dairyman, who sells butter, the Grazier who desires flesh, the Butcher who seeks proof, and the Farmer who expects profit from his dry cows, and weight from his male calves, the Heifer which at two years gives twenty quarts of milk, the steer which at two produces 2000lbs. of beef, the Cow which at eight affords a carcass for the shambles are unquestionably to be preferred.

CURWEN

Worcester Agricultural Society.

[*The publication of the following report has been accidentally delayed to this late period.*]

The committee on agricultural experiments and improvements have attended to the duty assigned them, and submit the following report—

They have awarded to *Payson Williams*, Esquire, of Fitchburg, for the greatest quantity of potatoes raised on an acre of land, being 614 bushels, $6.

It will be recollected that Mr. Williams obtained a premium the last season for an inferior crop, (the quantity then being only 580 bushels on an acre:) on which occasion, however, the committee remark, "that the quantity probably exceeded any crop for "which a premium had been obtained within this "commonwealth."

The present season has certainly not been a favourable one for the cultivation of potatoes; and the committe are persuaded that Mr. Williams is indebted for his success, not only to a productive soil, but to a highly judicious mode of culture.

The whole expense of raising and harvesting the 614 bushels, including 37 loads of manure, and the value of the seed, is estimated by Mr. Williams, at 87 dollars, or something less than 15 cents per bushel. The committee indulge the hope that the repeated success of Mr. Williams will induce many of the farmers of this county to adopt the improved method of culture by which that success has been obtained.

The committee have not thought it expedient to award any premium for the greatest quantity of wheat; as, owing to the unfavourableness of the last season, or to the want of competition, the quantity for which a premium is claimed is only 19 bushels.

There were five samples of potatoes raised from seed-balls exhibited: one from Nathan Perry of Worcester; one from Uriel Johnson, of Worcester; one from Oliver Wilson, of Leicester; and two from Joshua Richardson, of Templeton. One of Mr. Richardson's samples being of a "superior quality," the committee awarded him the premium of five dollars.

The committee also received, on the day of their meeting, a communication from Samuel Leland, of Grafton, by which it appears that he raised on 106 rods of land, 59 bushels and 27 quarts of corn—equal to 90 bushels and 10 quarts per acre.

By order of the Committee,

STEPHEN WILLIAMS,
CHAIRMAN.

WORCESTER, December 12, 1820.

PISÉ,

Or the Art of Building strong and durable Walls, to the Height of several Stories, with nothing but Earth, or the most common Materials. Drawn up and presented to the Board of Agriculture, by Henry Holland, *Esq.*

[*Continued from No. 2, page 13, volume III.*]

Of Pisé and its Origin.

CHAPTER III.

Method of working.

Let us not confound pisé with that miserable way of building with clay or mud mixed with hay or straw, which is often seen in country villages. Tho' some have been unable or unwilling to distinguish between them, nothing in reality can be more different. Those wretched huts are built in the very worst manner that could be imagined; whereas pisé contains all the best principles of masonry, together with some rules peculiar to itself, which are now to be explained. Plate V. figure 15, represents the plan of a house, the building of which will be regularly described, according to the method of pise.

To begin with the foundation; this may be made of any kind of masonry that is durable, and must be raised to the height of two feet above the ground; which is necessary to secure the walls from the moisture of the earth, and the splashing of the rain, which will drop from the eaves of the roof. When these foundation walls are made level, and eighteen inches thick, mark upon them the distances at which the joists are to be set, for receiving the moulds; those distances should be three feet each from centre to centre. Each side of the mould being ten feet long, will divide into three lengths of three feet each, and leave six inches at each end, which serve to lengthen the mould at the angles of the house, and are useful for many other purposes. After having set the joists in their places, the masonry must be raised between them six inches higher, that is, to a level with the joists; there will, therefore, upon the whole, be a base of two feet and a half, which in most cases will be found more than sufficient to hinder the rain, frost, snow, or damp, from injuring the walls. Raise the mould immediately on this new masonry, placing it over one of the angles of the wall. The manner of raising the mould has been already described; the head of it, which is to be placed against the angle, should have eighteen inches in breadth at the bottom, and only seventeen inches and a half at the top; thus the sides of the mould will incline towards each other, and produce that diminution in the thickness of the wall, which is usual in buildings of this nature. The wedges must then be driven in, and the posts well fixed by cords, and the head of the mould secured by iron pins; the preparations are then complete, and the workmen may begin.

A workman should be placed in each of the 3 divisions of the mould, the best workman being placed at the angle. He is to direct the work of the other two, and by occasionally applying a plumb-rule, to take care that the mould does not swerve from its upright position. The labourers who dig and prepare the earth, must give it in small quantities to the workmen in the mould, who, after having spread it with their feet, begin to press it with the rammer. They must only receive at a time so much as will cover the bottom of the mould to the thickness of three or four inches. The first strokes of the rammer should be given close to the sides of the mould, but they must be afterwards applied to every other part of the surface; the men should then cross their strokes, so that the earth may be pressed in every direction. Those who stand next to one another in the mould should regulate their strokes so as to beat at the same time under the cord, because that part cannot be got at without difficulty, and must be struck obliquely; with this precaution, the whole will be equally compressed. The man at the angle of the wall should beat carefully against the head of the mould, and for the sake of the appearance, or perhaps to increase the strength of the building, it is usual to spread every six inches high a layer of mortar near the head, in imitation of the joints of stone-work. Care must be taken that no fresh earth is received into the mould till the first layer is well beaten, which may be ascertained by striking it with the rammer; the stroke should leave hardly any print on the place. They must proceed in this manner to ram in layer after layer, till the whole mould is full.—When this is done, the machine may be taken to pieces, and the earth which is contained will remain firm and upright, about nine feet in length, and two feet and a half in height. The mould may then be replaced for another length, including one inch of that which has first been completed; the regular manner of joining the different lengths may be seen in the geometrical elevation, Plate VI. figure 16, and particularly in Plate VII. figure 18, where it will be observed, that no joints are left in this work, as the different lengths are united, and made to press one on the other. In the second length, and most of the following, the head of the mould is useless; it is only made use of at the angles.

When the workmen have gone round the whole building, taking the mould to pieces and putting it together again successively, they must begin upon the partition wall, marked C, in Plate IV. Here the head of the mould must be used, as the door jambs are squared like the angles of the wall. The jamb next to the exterior wall, which is too narrow to be made of pisé, can easily be made of wood, brick, or stone.

The first course being thus completed, we proceed to the second; and here it must be observed, that if in laying the first course we begin with one angle, as the angle A, in Plate V. and proceed with the work towards E, we must, for the second course, begin with A, and proceed towards B, and so in each successive course we must proceed in a direction contrary to that of the proceeding. It may easily be conceived, that with this precaution the joints of the several lengths will be inclined in opposite directions, which will contribute very much to the firmness of the work. There is no reason to fear overcharging the first course with the second, though but just laid for three courses may be laid without danger in one day; mark the grooves for receiving the joists in the first course, at the distance of three feet from one another, but not immediately over the former grooves, but over the middle points between them; see Plate VI. figure 18. These grooves must be cut with a pick-axe, and the second course completed in the same manner as the former, except that it must proceed in a contrary direction, as was before observed, and that the head of the mould and wall-gage must be diminished, in order that the same inclination of the sides to one another, that was given to the first course, may be preserved in this second.

It must, however, be remarked, that this second course is not to be continued without interruption like the first, as it is necessary that the partition wall should join or bond into the exterior wall; or rather, that all walls in the building, whether outside or partition walls, which meet at an angle should cross each other at every course. In pursuance, therefore, of this rule, when the work has been advanced from A and C, Plate IV. or perhaps not quite so far as C, leave the exterior wall, and turn the mould to the partition, applying the face of it to C. This will appear more clearly by observing the letter G in Plate VI. When the work has been carried on along the partition wall, as far as the door, bring back the mould to the part which remained unfinished in the exterior wall, marked C in plate V. and after having filled up that space, carry the mould on beyond the partition wall, and complete the course. The reason why the partition wall on the side opposite to C, Plate IV. is not to be connected in the same manner with the interior wall, has already been given, viz. that it ought to be made of wood, or brick-work, and not of pisé; but the third course must be carried over the door, and join into the wall, as directed on the other side.

This description of the two first courses is equally applicable to all the others, and will enable any person to build a house, with no other materials than earth, of whatever height and extent he pleases.

With respect to the gables, they cannot be crossed, as they are detached from one another; but as their height is so inconsiderable, and they are besides connected together by the roof, this is not of any consequence. They may be made without any difficulty, by merely making their inclination in the mould, and working the earth accordingly.

It has been observed, that each course will be two feet and a half high, if the mould is two feet nine inches; for the mould must include three inches of the course beneath. For this reason the grooves are made six inches deep, though the joists are only three inches in thickness. If the directions which have been given for diminishing the thickness of the walls are observed, that thickness will be reduced to fifteen inches at the roof, in a house (like that of which a design is annexed) consisting of six courses; for in each course there will be an inclination of half an inch. The gables might have been reduced to fourteen inches only in thickness, as an interval of fourteen inches only was left between the mortises of the joists; and by increasing or diminishing that interval, the thickness of the walls may be regulated at pleasuae.

Such is the method of building which has been practiced in the Lyonese for many centuries. Houses so built, are strong, healthy, and very cheap: they will last a great length of time, for the French author says, he had pulled down some of them, which, from the title-deeds in the possession of the proprietors, appeared to be 165 years old, though they had been ill kept in repair. The rich traders of Lyons have no other way of building their country houses. An outside covering of painting in fresco, which is attended with very little expense, conceals from the eye of the spectator the nature of the building, and is a handsome ornament to the house. That method of painting has more freshness and brilliancy than any other, because water does not impair the colours. No size, oil, or expense is required, manual labour is almost all it costs, either to the rich or poor. Any person may make his house look as splendid as he pleases, for a few pence laid out in red or yellow ochre, or in other mineral colours.

Strangers who have sailed upon the Rhone, probably never suspected that those beautiful houses, which they saw rising on the hills around them, were built of nothing but earth; nay, many persons have dwelt for a considerable time in such houses, without ever being aware of their singular construction. Farmers in that country generally have them simply white-washed, but others, who have a greater taste for ornament, add pilasters, window cases, pannels, and decorations of various kinds. Plate V. figure 17, represents the house of the poorest inhabitant of the Lyonnese.

There is every reason for introducing this method of building into all parts of the kingdom; whether we consider the honor of the nation as concerned in the neatness of its villages, the great saving of wood which it will occasion, and the consequent security from fire, or the health of the inhabitants, to which it will greatly contribute, as such houses are never liable to the extremes of heat or cold. It is attended with many other circumstances that are advantageous to the state, as well as to individuals. It saves both time and labour in building, and the houses may be inhabited almost immediately after they are finished; for which latter purpose the holes made for the joists should not be closed up directly, for the air, if suffered to circulate through them, will dry the walls more speedily.

(*To be continued.*)

PLATE VI.

Fig. 18.

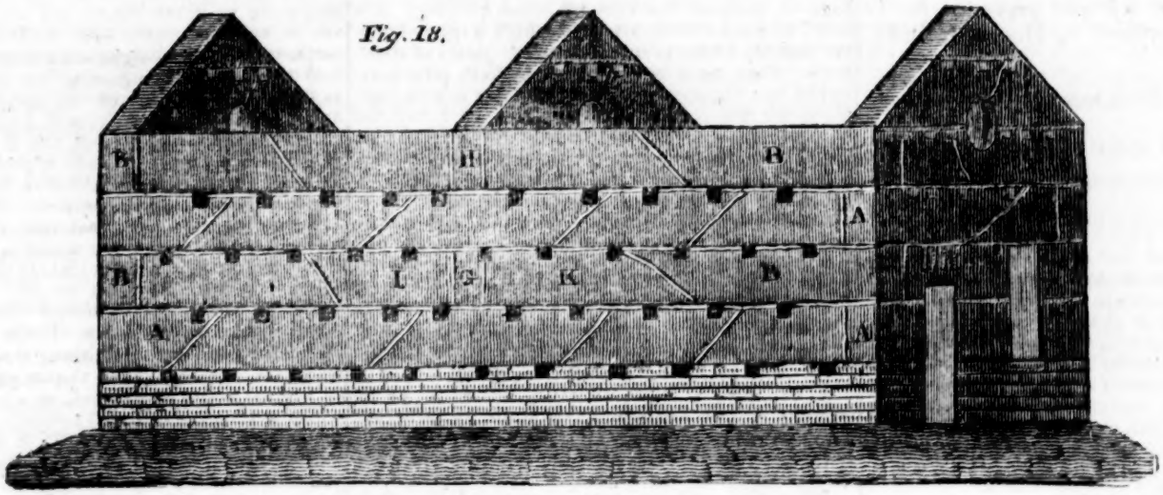


PLATE VII.

Fig. 19.

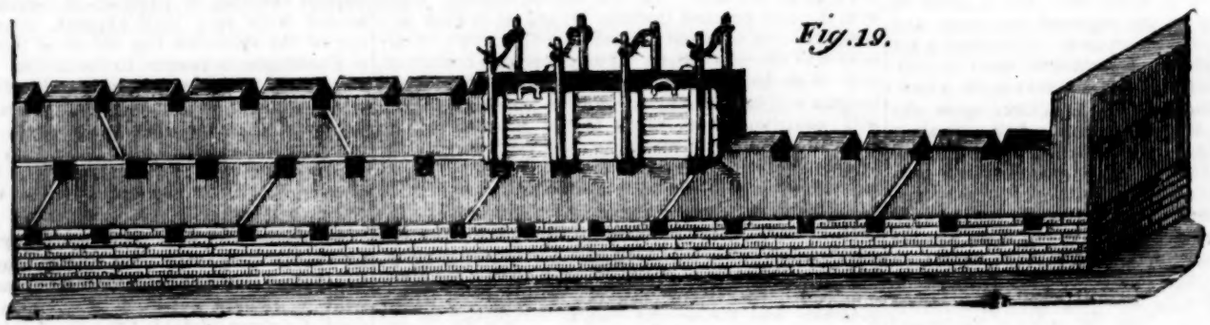
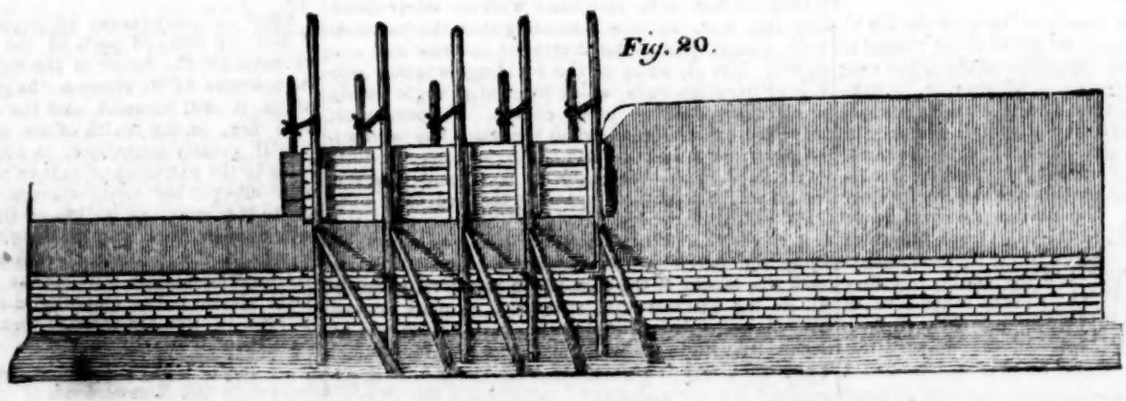


Fig. 20.



To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR—On the 243d page, of the second vol of the "Farmer," you advise husbandmen to communicate their experience on agriculture in writing, and offer them the pages of your work. You add, "the plain every day conversation style of the farmer, to his neighbor, is the best style on paper, for agricultural subjects, and therefore he who can tell his experience, by word of mouth, can write it." I most heartily subscribe to the justness of this remark, and feel well satisfied, that the value of the "American Farmer" would be much enhanced, were the writers for its pages to attend strictly to this advice.

I have derived amusement from some, and I hope, much instruction from other parts of your work. I think it well calculated to diffuse a mass of most valuable information, to a class of our community, who stand much in need of such instruction. To the plain farmer, of moderate pecuniary resources, who is unable to purchase more expensive works on agriculture, it is of incalculable value. And this is the class of our agriculturists, who will derive most advantage from your labors, and those of your correspondents, provided, the facts and doctrines contained in your work, are made intelligible to their understandings. I should think, that the first object of every writer who addresses such readers, should be to express his ideas in the plainest, clearest and most intelligible language. His chief ambition should be, to *instruct* his readers, which he cannot do, unless he is clearly and fully understood by them.

With these preliminary observations, I proceed to the object of this communication, which is respectfully to question the propriety of the use of the *Latin* language, in any agricultural discussions, which are intended to appear in the "American Farmer." And here let me assure you, Mr. Editor, that these observations are offered in the spirit of the most friendly feeling, towards those writers who have employed that language; because I have derived much pleasure and, I hope, instruction, from their communications, and should have read them with feelings of delight *alone*, had they been altogether expressed in the English language.

In the instances, which I now recollect, wherein the Latin language has been used, I have not perceived, that its employment rendered the meaning of the writers more clear and intelligible, even to those who understand that language, than English words would have done. And if I be correct in this, ¿ may I not question the propriety of its use?—Let us attend to some of those instances, and see whether the ideas of the writers, would not have been just as well understood had they been expressed in English.

Perhaps you are acquainted with, or at least know something of Mr. John S. Skinner, P. M. at Baltimore. In some observations of his (if my memory be correct) some where in the 2d volume of the Farmer, but on what page, I cannot now tell, he uses this language: "The Marylanders and Virginians, *contrœ bonos mores*, do," &c. &c. Suppose he had said, The Marylanders and Virginians, *against good morals*, do," &c. &c: ¿ would not his meaning have been just as well understood by the best classical scholar in our country, as it was, by the use of the Latin words, "*contra bonos mores*"? I leave you Mr. Editor to decide this question between Mr. Skinner and myself.

In a memorial of Mr. Joseph E. Muse on the *mode of operation* of Plaster of Paris, published in your first volume, which I should have read with unmixed pleasure and satisfaction, had he used the English language alone, we meet with the words "*modus operandi*" several times. In an address of the same gentleman (published on the 245th, 6th and 7th pages of the 2d volume of the Farmer,) delivered before the "Agricultural Society of Maryland," we find the following language: "Gypsum has been for many years so extensively used, that to dwell on it, would be superfluous: yet were an inquiry made into its peculiar *mode of operation*, it might," &c. &c. The second sentence after this, is worded thus: "With this view, I presented to this Society a memoir on the *modus operandi* of gypsum," &c. &c. Now, Sir, let me respectfully put this question to Mr. Muse. ¿ Is not the first sentence of these two quotations in which you use the English words, "*mode of operation*," as intelligible as the second, in which you employ the Latin words "*modus operandi*," even to a Latin scholar, who understands English? And if so, ¿ where, in this case, is the *utility* or propriety of using the Latin language? For let it be also remembered, that all those readers who do not understand Latin, will not comprehend the latter sentence at all.—Other instances might be given, but let these suffice.

Let us by way of illustration, suppose that the readers of the Farmer are *ten* in number, and that *five* of them are classical scholars, and the other *five* plain farmers, who know nothing of the Latin tongue. If a writer use the *English language* alone, and writes intelligibly, he will be understood by the whole ten; but should he use the Latin language, that part of his communication which consists of Latin, is only understood by one half of his readers, and by that half too who are the least likely to require the information intended to be given. And as it regards those, who do not understand Latin, it is at least unkind to use it; because the ideas of the writer, which are thus expressed, are lost to them, and perhaps the rest of the communication will not be as well understood by them, as it would have been, had the English language alone been used.

Every person, I presume, who has read at all has frequently experienced the inconvenience of having his mind drawn off from the subject of his author, by some incidental train of thought, which an association of ideas has produced, arising from some remarks of the writer, or from some extraneous circumstance. I do not know how it is with others; but with myself, I never come across a Latin quotation in the "American Farmer," without its completely drawing off my attention, for a while from the subject under discussion. My first feeling is regret: then the advantages of a classical education are discussed: then I think of the Romans, of their arts, their learning, their wars, their virtues and their crimes. I then think of the Grecians, the rivals of the Romans in all these particulars: then of the Turks, and the countries they have over run: I then find myself at the mouth of the Nile: then I think of the Alexandrian Library and its ruins: then of Cleopatra's needles: of Pompey's pillar: of Pompey's headless trunk and trunkless head: then of the trade which has been carried on in Pompey's heads: then I accompany the latest importation of this article, that I have heard of, and find myself in New-York. I arrive with awe and trembling, in the presence of the learned Dr. Mitchell: I think I see him, holding this head of Pompey in his left hand, whilst, with his right extended, he is making sweet speeches to its withered greatness: then I think of the Doctor's daily "association with the wise and the good of our days", and the dead of former times: then of the "Memorandums" sent to the Editor of the American Farmer. This brings to my recollection, how I was disappointed when I got to the end of these "Memorandums", and found them

"Like the story of the fiddle
"Broken off in the middle"

by the "*interruption*" of some visitors, who brought the Doctor the *very unpleasant news* that a diploma had been issued by the *Imperial Academy* at Moscow, certifying that he had been elected a member. This brings the "American Farmer" into my mind again, and I recollect, that I have just been reading something in it, and that the above train of thought has for a while completely driven the plough, the harrow and the hoe from my mind.

If these considerations be not sufficient to induce your correspondents to use the English language alone, I hope such as continue to employ Latin, will be at least kind enough to accompany it with an English translation.

WILLIAM JASPER.

March 24, 1821.

For the American Farmer.

TO RAISE A CEDAR HEDGE.

From a Farmer of much experience on the subject.

Gather the berries in November or December. Rub off the skin and wash the kernels—rubbing them well between the hands, so as to get off as much of the resinous substance as possible, then mix them with unslacked ashes, and let them remain in the ashes for a fornight; then plant them in drills as you would peas, and they will vegetate and come up the following spring; and being well nursed, they will in two years be fit to plant out in Hedges—about the first of March is the proper time for planting them—throw into the bottom of the trench, light rich earth, such as may be had from the surface of productive ground. When the trees attain three feet high, you should begin to train the Hedge—about the middle of summer, is a suitable time for this operation, and it ought to be carefully continued until the Hedge is as high as you may desire it—about 7 feet high, and 3½ feet broad is sufficient.

N. B. The better you cleense the kernel, the more certainly the seed will vegetate—by proper care an excellent Hedge may be expected in 7 years which for beauty and durability, cannot be surpassed either by thorns or any other growth.

ON CHEESE MAKING,

As practised at one of the most eminent Dairies in New England, communicated at the request of the Editor of the American Farmer.

Sir—Agreeable to your request we have obtained from our brother, Leonard Hurlbert, a brief account of his manner of making Cheese, which we enclose you for publication if you deem it worthy of a place in your useful paper. His manner of making Cheese we suppose to be as perfect as any yet discovered, as his cheese is of an excellent quality, and is known in Baltimore as such—specimens of which probably may be seen at Barnum's Tavern, and at M'Clure & Foltze, and Marple & Williams' stores, who have had of the dairy for a number of years past. Your's respectfully.

SAML. HURLBERT & CO.

CHEESE MAKING.

From long experience I have found the following to be the best method of manufacturing Cheese, viz: Add the night's milk with the morning's milk, and gently heat it over a fire in a kettle to 94 degrees, then put it into a tub or vat, then add a sufficient quantity of prepared annatto to give it a handsome yellow colour; next add a sufficient quantity of rennet to make it curd in 25 minutes—when curded, make use of a wooden knife or sword of sufficient length to reach the bottom of the tub, and chequer it all in squares of about two inches; it is important that it should all be chequered to the bottom—then let it stand until the whey appears above the curd, say from 15 to 20 minutes; then break it up carefully with the hands in such a manner as not to bruise or break the pieces of curd; next place a clean strainer on top of the whey and curd, and press it down gently so as to cause the whey to arise on top, then lade off the whey with a dish or dipper, what can be conveniently taken off in that way; then place a cheese strainer in a cheese basket over a tub, and carefully remove the curd and remaining whey into it, and cut it into slices with a thin skimmer, until the whey has mostly drained out; then bring the corners of the strainer together and twist them so as to press the curd into a solid mass, and place the twisted corners down in the basket, and place a clean board of about one foot square on the top of it, on which place a bout 20 lbs. weight in order to press out the whey and consolidate the curd. After remaining in this situation about 15 minutes the curd is to be cut in pieces of about one inch square, with a knife resembling a common carving knife, then to be put into the strainer exactly as before stated, with the weight on it, and remain from 10 to 15 minutes, and then cut as last stated, and so repeated from six to ten times, until the whey has entirely done dripping from it—after which it is taken out and cut into pieces of about two inches square, and put into a wooden bowl and chopped with a chopping knife until the pieces are about the size of an indian corn. The next process is scalding, which is done by putting the curd into a strainer and putting it into a kettle of hot whey, heated to 126 degrees and no more, for if the whey is too hot it will ruin the cheese and make it hard and dry. While in the whey it must be stirred with the hand until the whole is equally heated, it is then taken out and put into the cheese basket over a tub, and a sufficient quantity of clean fine salt thoroughly mixed with it to give it a high salt flavour, and let it stand until it is hardly blood warm, then the corners of the strainer are twisted together as before, when it is put into the hoop designed for the purpose, and placed into the press and pressed in this instance, with the average weight of about 100 lbs. to every ten pounds of curd; to remain about half an hour in the press, then taken out and turned in the hoop and replaced in the press, and add about one third to the weight in pressing or press it one third harder than before, and let it remain about three hours; then it is taken out and placed in a clean fine linen cloth, (pains should be taken that the cloth be perfectly smoothe and no rinkles in it,) it is put again into the hoop and pressed for forty-eight hours, being taken out and turned once during the time. At this pressing about one third additional weight must be added—it is then taken out and oiled, and put on the shelf to cure, where it must be turned, rubbed and oiled at least every twenty-four hours until it is thoroughly cured.

My method of preparing the oil I use on Cheese, is as follows, viz:—I put the whey I scald the curd in, into a tub and let it stand about 24 hours and an oil arises on the surface, which I skim off and put into a kettle and simmer it over a moderate fire, when the sediment will settle to the bottom, and I pour off a beautiful pure oil, which is fit for use. For painting cheese I make use of the best Spanish annatto. I would here take the liberty to remark, that there is a great deal of the counterfeit Spanish annatto, manufactured in this country, and is good for nothing; and it appears to those who are not perfectly acquainted with the article, to be of good quality, and the people have been much imposed upon with it, for the last ten years. Take eight ounces of Spanish annatto, or in proportion as may be wanted, and put it into three gallons of weak lye, made from pot or common ashes, and boil it until it dissolves and becomes of a bright yellow colour—thus it may be put into the milk as before described. To prepare the rennet to put into the cheese, I take the calf's second stomach immediately after the calf is killed, and take out the contents, which is called curd, which I do not save, as it is of no use, (as some have mistakenly supposed,) as by using it the cheese is injured thereby. I rince the bag clean in cold water and rub it all over with fine salt and lay it away to dry; when dry I make about one gallon of brine to each bag, by mixing as much clean alum salt with hot water as the water will dissolve, and after the brine is cool I put it in the bag, and when it has soaked several days it will be fit for use.

LEONARD HURLBERT.

Winchester, Litchfield County, Connecticut, 29th March 1821.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

ON PEAR TREES.

We had, Mr Editor, some weeks ago a communication from my friend Sylvanus (I call him friend because we frequently agree in notions) on the subject of the cause of decay in Pear trees. This paper I have mislaid, but as he stated a fact not generally known respecting the pear tree in that communication, and as I consider it a duty each member owes the agricultural or horticultural community to support the truth of such facts when in their power, I take the liberty also of stating a fact in corroboration of his fact; but I do not assent to his reasoning on the subject.

About 18 years ago I projected a considerable fruitery on one side of my garden, in which the choicest fruit from New-York and this state is assembled. At the time Pear trees were regularly planted on the ground, at near distances for such trees; and between them was planted each way, Peach trees, and I supposed as the latter were of quick growth and short lived, that they would have their day on the ground, before the pears would come on; but in this I was mistaken; the Peach trees are still nearly all alive; but the pears grew up so quick as to injure their bearing and quality of fruit materially. The ground is literally covered with trees, and the consequence has been, as my friend says, that the Pear trees are exceedingly healthy and vigorous, having never yet lost a tree nor a limb until last year a single limb. This has been a subject of remark in this neighbourhood, where there has been considerable havoc among the valuable pears. Several gentlemen also of your city have seen them with surprise and admiration. Sylvanus, if I recollect right, ascribes the prosperity of his trees, to scions and other shady shubbery, which he supposes, takes off the too great fertility of the soil, and consequently subtracts or prevents what he supposes would be *superabundant juices*, from the trees. I have ascribed my success to a different cause, to wit, to *shade* alone; and I have concluded that the destruction is done by a stroke of the sun, not upon the tree, but upon the earth and *roots*, if I may so express myself. Three years ago one of my trees standing on the outer edge of the ground, in a very severe *drought*, was suddenly struck apparently as dead as if it had been cut down; at least the whole leaves assumed precisely the same fallen appearance. As soon as I discovered it, I had the earth for some distance round the tree well watered at night, then covered with a cart load of sea weed, and again watered, and the tree again soon recovered its health and vigour, and so continued:—From these facts, if neither Sylvanus nor I have drawn practical conclusions, somebody else perhaps may.

ENQUIRER.

April 3d, 1821.

CHEAP METHOD OF FATTENING CATTLE.

Communicated by Mr. Nathan Landon, of Litchfield.

There is a way to fatten cattle, in the absence of the common means scarcely inferior to the best, as the following instances will prove. I fatted an ox

and a three year old heifer the winter past, without either corn or potatoes, for less expense than even that of common keeping, by a preparation of cut straw, &c. as follows:—I boiled about two quarts of flaxseed and sprinkled on to cut straw, which had been previously scalded and seasoned with salt, together with some oil-cake and oatmeal, working them together in a tub with a short pitchfork, till the whole becomes an oily mush. I fattened the heifer first. She was of the common size, and in good order to winter. I gave her about three pecks, which she eat voraciously; and in the course of four days, when the seed was gone, she was visibly altered. I fed her regularly in this way about two months, in which time she had eaten about one bushel of boiled flaxseed, with the other ingredients in proportion, when she was butchered. She weighed 584 pounds, 84 lbs. of which was tallow. She would not have sold before fattening, for more than $ 16; I sold two-quarters of her for $ 18 13 cents. She cost me not more than $ 10, exclusive of the hay she eat which was chiefly scalded as above. On the 1st of February, I began with the ox. I fed him about three months, but not altogether so well as I did the heifer. He digested about one pint of boiled flaxseed a day prepared as above, which I suppose formed half the fat in these two cattle. The ox was short, measured seven feet, two inches, and when killed weighed 1082 lbs and 180 lbs. of tallow. He cost me while fattening twenty-five cents a day:—he had previously cost me thirty five cents. My net gain in fattening these two cattle was more than all I have cleared before in fattening oxen and cows in 15 years, and this is owing I think chiefly to the use of flaxseed. I never fattened cattle that appeared so calm, so hearty, and digested all their fare with so much natural ease and regularity as these. I would therefore recommend the above preparation to the attention of farmers, as a good substitute for corn. I kept my cows on it alone in the month of March, for one third the expense of hay. It makes rich milk and excellent butter—farmers!—by a proper attention to economy, one half of our corn may be saved, to produce abundance in the land, and your garners shall overflow with oil and fatness. I shall pursue this method of feeding, and endeavor to improve it!—and trust I shall yet be enabled to say, the half has not been told.

[*Agricultural Almanac.*

For the American Farmer.

REMEDY FOR SORE EYES.

[*FROM A FEMALE CORRESPONDENT.*]

I have lately seen an application for sore eyes, rapid in its good effects, and so simple and cheap, that the poorest and most ignorant can obtain it. Take small sticks of sassafras, split in four pieces—put them in a vessel with cold and fresh spring water—they impart a glutinous matter to the water—wash sore eyes in this liquid, which cures them without smarting or heat—the poor suffer most from this disease. E. P. C.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, APRIL 13th, 1821.

☞ CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR.—The Maryland Agricultural Society, have resolved to hold their next stated meeting in June, at the Maryland Tavern, four miles from Baltimore, on the Frederick turnpike road.

Premiums will then be awarded, and publickly distributed—to consist of various pieces of silver plate, for the objects mentioned in the 51st Number and 2nd vol. of the Farmer.

All persons having live stock of any kind to sell, and those wishing to buy, are invited to attend—as an auctioneer will be employed at the expense of the Society, to conduct the sale of such as the owners may wish to have sold at publick sale.—Farmers will have it then in their power to supply themselves with choice stock of every description.

The Society will dine together—and all persons desirous of joining it, will make application at the meeting above mentioned—The annual subscription is but $2—A more particular detail will be given hereafter.

☞ BRIEF NOTICE of the male animals already procured, and now ready for service, on the Editor's Stock Farm, in pursuance of his plan, which has already been explained, for improving the various species of live stock.

HORSES *for Parade, for the Turf, and for Harness.*—CLIFTON, a very beautiful chesnut sorrel colored Stallion, near 16 hands high, and 6 years old, bred by Joseph Lewis, Esq. of Virginia;—of this horse, Col. Taylor gives it as his opinion, that his pedigree is equal to that of any horse in the United States—and the horse himself has been examined, and pronounced uncommonly fine, by some of the best judges in this state. He covers at $25, to be discharged by the payment of $15, if sent with the mare.

For the Saddle, and for hard service on the Roads—YOUNG TOM—The great excellence of this breed of horses *for the Saddle*, is generally known—for variety and pleasantness of gait, for hardiness of constitution and length of life, they are believed to be without equal in America—being considered as in their prime at an age, when other horses are worn out. The one I have procured, was bred by Cornelius Howard, Esq. He was got by Judge Winchester's old Tom, and his dam by Mr. William Owings' horse, called PATRICK TOM, out of the fine riding mare of Colonel Nicholas Ruxton Moore.—Young Tom was 5 years old the 5th of this month—and exhibits in great perfection, the points which characterise the breed of which he is the true and almost sole surving representative.—Young Tom, will cover at $12, to be discharged by the payment of $8, if sent with the mare.

JACKS.—SANCHO, 14 hands high, selected at Malta, by an officer of the navy. Of this Jack, James Nabb, Esq. of Talbot County, says, "he is by far the best "covering Jack, and his mules the largest I ever saw. "They are more than 15 hands high, by small mares "which continued at hard service in the plough "during the whole summer." Sancho is eight years old, and covers at $12, to be discharged by the payment of $8 if sent with the mare.

These animals will all stand at the same places, on the same days. These places and days will hereafter be more particularly designated—in the mean time they will be at the Maryland Tavern, on the Frederick Turnpike, on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; and at Woodon's Tavern, Govanstown, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

BULLS.—MARK ANTHONY, a full blood d Alderney Bull, 2 years old—the breed remarkable for the *richness of their milk*—will be let to cows at my farm at Bovally, at $3 each, to be sent with the cow.

Bulls of the Teeswater and Devon breeds will be provided in the course of the next two weeks, and a more particular account will then be given. The public may be assured of having these breeds in their *genuine purity* at my Stock Farm.

Statement of the weight of six Persian squashes, the produce of a single seed, planted in the garden at TULIP HILL, *West River:*

No. 1	weighed	176 pounds
No. 2	———	120
No. 3	———	80
No. 4	———	76
No. 5	———	50
No. 6	———	10

Total 512 pounds.

ERRATUM.—In the 2d line, of the 3d paragraph, of the second column, of the last page, for *men's*, read *mere.*

Baltimore, April 13, 1821.

PRICES CURRENT.

Flour, from the wagons, 3 62½ to $3 75—*Whiskey*, from do 21 cts per gallon—*Hay*, per ton $17—*Straw*, $7—Wheat, red 70 cts—White do 73 to 75 cts—*Barley*, 45 to 50—Wharf *Oats*, 25 cts—Potato do. for seed, 45 cts—*Corn*, white, 28 to 28½—yellow, 26—*Cod fish*, per quintal, wholesale $3, retail do. $4—N. Eng. *Beans* per bushel, $1 12½—do. *Peas*, 75 cts—Ground *Plaster* per ton 8 50, per barrel, $1 45, per bushel, 35, in the stone per ton, $6 50—New-Orleans *Sugar*, $8 75 to 10—Muscovado, do. $7 50 to 9 25—American *White Lead*, $12 50—Ground, do. $13 a 14—*Linseed Oil*, 75 cts—*Feathers*, 40 to 45 cts—N. E. *Potatoes*, retail 62½ cts pr bu.—16 head very choice *Cattle* from a large drove, were purchased the last week by Mr. John Rusk, from Mr. George Cunningham, of South Branch, at $6 50—Common cattle selling for $5 56—*Beef*, prime pieces, 8 to 10 cts.—corn *Beef*, 7 cts—*Mutton*, 8 to 10 cts—*Hams*, 10 to 12 cts—*Middlings*, 8 to 10 cts—*Butter*, 20 to 25 cts—*Eggs*, 12½ cts—*Cheese*, 8 to 10 cts. pr lb.—*Tar*, $1 62½—*Soft Turpentine*, $2—*Pitch*, $2½—*Rosin*, common 1¾—bright do. $3 per barrel,—*Varnish*, 25 cts.—*Spirits turpentine*, 33 cts. per gal.—*Cotton*, good Upland, 13 to 15 cts. per lb—*Rice*, 3 a 3½ cts.—ship and flooring *Plank*, $25 to 27. *Shingles*, best 6¾ a $7 com, $3 a 4½ p. M.—*Oak*, wood, $4 50—*Hickory*, $5 per cord—*Clover*, seed $6—Am. *Orchard*, grass do. $4—Eng. do, do. or *Cocksfoot*, do. $8,—*Herds*, do $3—*Sanfoin*, per bushel $8—*Millet*, do. $2—*Lucern*, 62 cents per lb—*Sweet Scented Vernal* grass, 150 cents—*Trefoil*, 50 cents per pound—*Ruta Baga*, 50 cents—*Mangle Wurtzel*, 175 cents pound—*Cabbage* seed, 2 to $6 per pound—*Cauliflower*, 75 to 100 cts. per oz.—spring *Tares*, $8 per bushel—*Peas*, 25 to 37½ cts per quart—short orange *Carrot*, 12½ cts.—*Parsnip*, 12½ cts.—*Lettuce*, 25 cents—*Raddish*, 12½ to 20 cts—*Beet* 20 cents—*Brocole*, 31 to 100 cts.—*Cucumber*, 37 to 50 cts per oz.—*Turnip* seed, 50 to 125 cts per lb.—*Chicory*, 75 cents per pound—*Rape*, 12½ cents do—large Amsterdam *Cabbage* for cattle, 25 cents per oz—Irish *Furz* or *Wins*, $2 per pound—Bush and Pall *Beans*, 6¼ to 25 cents per quart—New York premium *Ploughs* of sizes from 7 to $16—*Box Churns*, 8 to $9—*Drill Machines*, 10 to $11—Bennet's broad cast *Machine* for sowing Clover, Turnip, and Grass Seeds, $18—*Expanding Cultivators*, $15—*Post Augurs*, 5 to $9—*Flexible Tubes*, to relieve cattle when hoven or choaked, with gags, the pair $5—*Corn Shellers*, 20 to $25—*Turnip Scoops*, 50 cents each—large 2 horse Connecticut *Ploughs*, iron mould boards, $11—do. do. wood, 10$...—small *Ploughs*, do. $7 50.

Extract of a letter, dated Richmond, 4th April, 1821.

[Communicated for the American Farmer.]

Tobacco is fully and freely in the market here—say from 50 to 100 hhds. selling daily at the warehouses—lowest grade that passes, 5—decent, 6 to 6½—and *good* to *fine*, 7 to 10.

Prices of wool in New York, on the 3d instant.

Common Wool,		40 cents
Half blooded	Merino,	45
3-4 do	do	50 to 55
7-8 do	do	60 to 62 1-2
Full blooded		70.

Washed on the back before shearing.

EXILE,

The Imported Cleveland Bay, will take ten Mares this season more than the proprietor's. He is rising two years old, and is now about 15½ hands high. It is the cross of this breed of horses with the blooded mare, that produces the old English Hunter. Thirty dollars, which must be brought with the mare, is the price of covering. There is no pasturage, but grain will be furnished at the neighbourhood price.

GEORGE HAUPT, *Manager.*

TUSCARORA, near Bucky's town, Frederick County.

Printed every Friday at $4 per annum, for JOHN S. SKINNER, Editor, by JOSEPH ROBINSON, at the N. W. corner of Market and Belvidere-streets, Baltimore, where every description of Book and Job Printing is executed—Orders from a distance for Printing and Binding, with proper directions, promptly attended to.